

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/P:HCBLANEY:JRR

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227372 TOSEC 270109

FOR LORD ONLY FROM BARTHOLOMEW

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) UNGA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH - ENVIRONMENT AND
POPULATION

1. HARRY BLANEY HAS RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INCLUSION OF ENVIRONMENT AND/OR POPULATION IN THE "COMMUNITY" PART OF THE SPEECH. HE ARGUES THAT THE SECRETARY HAS NOT YET DISCUSSED AT ANY LENGTH EITHER SUBJECT IN A PUBLIC FORUM AND THIS WOULD BE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY. THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED LANGUAGE HAS BEEN SUPPLIED BY OES WITH APPROPRIATE BLANEY INPUT; IO HAS SEEN. TO USE A LORDISM, I'M AGNOSTIC BUT FELT YOU SHOULD NOT BE DEPRIVED OF PLEASURE OF CONSIDERING THEM. I FIND THEM RATHER BLAND AND MORE ABOUT THE PROBLEM THAN ANY PROPOSALS WE HAVE. IF YOU WANT THEM WORKED FURTHER, LET US KNOW.

2. BEGIN POPULATION SECTION TEXT:

WHEN THIS ORGANIZATION WAS CREATED IN 1945, THERE WERE
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ABOUT 2.4 BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. THERE ARE NOW OVER
4 BILLION. WHEN ANOTHER 31 YEARS HAS ELAPSED, IN 2007,
THERE WILL BE 6.9 BILLION PEOPLE IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE,
AND POPULATION TRENDS ARE PARTICULARLY SLOW TO CHANGE.
THIS INCREASE FALLS HEAVIEST ON THE LESS DEVELOPED COUN-
TRIES WHERE SOME COUNTRIES ARE DOUBLING THEIR POPULATION
EVERY 20 YEARS. THE CONSEQUENCES ARE OF CONCERN TO ALL OF
US WHO STRIVE FOR A DECENT LIVING FOR MANKIND. FOR MANY
COUNTRIES, THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS ARE ABSORBED BY THE INCREASING NUMBERS, AND PRES-
SURES MOUNT FOR EVEN LARGER PROGRAMS IN THE FACE OF LIMITED
RESOURCES AND SKILLED AND TRAINED MANPOWER. FOR A FEW, A
LARGER POPULATION THREATENS MALNUTRITION AND POSSIBLE FAM-
INE AS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FAILS TO KEEP UP WITH POPU-
LATION GROWTH.

3. THE UN HAS BEGUN TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM. IN 1974 IT
SPONSORED THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE IN BUCHAREST
WHICH ADOPTED THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION. MY
COUNTRY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS DOCUMENT AND URGES CONTINU-
ING EFFORTS BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TO SLOW POPU-

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LATION GROWTH AROUND THE WORLD. IF QUICKENED AND IMPROVED
GLOBAL HEALTH, SOCIAL, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND HOUSING
OPPORTUNITIES ARE TO BE ACHIEVED, THERE MUST BE A BETTER
BALANCE BETWEEN THE NUMBERS NEEDING THEM AND OUR ABILITY

TO MEET THESE LEGITIMATE DEMANDS. THIS TASK IS A VITAL

ONE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE COMING GENERATION.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH MUST PRIMARILY BE

FACED NATIONALLY, BUT WE ALSO KNOW IT CAN BE A KEY DETERMI-

NANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANY COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE.

WE STAND READY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND WORK WITH CON-

CERNED GOVERNMENTS BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY TO SOLVE

THIS PROBLEM.

5. AS WE LOOK AHEAD, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT GREATER ATTEN-

TION BE GIVEN ESPECIALLY TO VILLAGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

THROUGH WHICH EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS,

INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED AND

EXPANDED. MY GOVERNMENT IS INCREASING ITS ASSISTANCE IN

THIS AREA; I HOPE ALL OTHERS WILL JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT

TASK. END POPULATION TEXT

6. BEGIN ENVIRONMENT SECTION

THE CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENT SCARCELY EXISTED WHEN THIS
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BODY WAS FIRST CONVENED. THIS IN ITSELF DRAMATIZES THE

RATE AT WHICH HUMAN PERCEPTIONS CHANGE. IF WE THOUGHT OF

INTERDEPENDENCE--AND JOHN DONNE THREE CENTURIES AGO PER-

CEIVED THAT NO MAN IS AN ISLAND UNTO HIMSELF--WE THOUGHT

OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE. RECOGNITION IS

RELATIVELY RECENT THAT BOTH PROSPERITY AND POVERTY PRODUCE

THEIR OWN BY-PRODUCTS, AND THAT THESE BY-PRODUCTS CAN

CHANGE AND IMPAIR THE VERY PROCESSES WHEREBY THE EARTH SUPPORTS LIFE.

7. THE NEW AWARENESS GAVE RISE TO THE UN CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT IN STOCKHOLM IN 1972. IT HAS LED TO THE CREATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND THE ENVIRONMENT FUND. MORE FUNDAMENTALLY, IT HAS CHANGED THE WAY IN WHICH WE LOOK UPON ALL OUR ACTIVITIES. HAVING DISCOVERED THAT INTERCONNECTIONS EXIST BETWEEN MAN'S ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND THE QUALITY OF HIS ENVIRONMENT, WE CANNOT GO BACK TO THE INNOCENCE OF MAKING THOSE ECONOMIC DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSIDERING THEIR IMPLICATIONS.

8. THE UNITED NATIONS HAS AN ONGOING TASK TO MOBILIZE THE WORLDWIDE EFFORT TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES

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TO THE EARTH'S LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE MUCH WISER STEWARDSHIP OF OUR FRAGILE NATURAL RESOURCES BASE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

9. NOWHERE IS THE CONCEPT OF "INTERDEPENDENCE" MORE CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED THAN IN THIS CHALLENGE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE HABITABILITY OF THE PLANET. NOT ONLY DO INDIVIDUAL NATIONS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO TAKE ACTIONS WHICH CAN INADVERTENTLY DEGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE AIR AND WATER FAR BEYOND THEIR BORDERS, BUT REMEDIAL MEASURES WHICH A SINGLE COUNTRY MAY WISH TO UNDERTAKE WILL BE INADEQUATE WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF OTHER NATIONS. AS CONCERN GROWS

ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE AIR IN OUR LARGE CITIES; POLLUTION OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS; DETERIORATION OF OUR SOILS, FORESTS AND GRAZING LANDS; AS URBAN MIGRATION IMPACTS OUR CITIES, WE FIND OURSELVES BEGINNING TO PERCEIVE THE IMPERATIVE OF WORKING TOGETHER AS COUNTRIES AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IF THERE IS TO BE A FUTURE. AND TODAY, CHALLENGED BY OUR INCREASING AWARENESS OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF TRULY GLOBAL CHARACTER--DEPLETION OF THE EARTH'S OZONE LAYER, MAN-INDUCED MODIFICATION OF THE CLIMATE--THE NEED TO JOIN TOGETHER TO UNDERSTAND AND

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PROTECT THE EARTH'S ECOSYSTEMS WAS NEVER CLEARER, MORE NECESSARY AND MORE URGENT.

10. THE IMPACT OF POPULATION GROWTH COUPLED WITH INCREASED UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES HAS THRUST A NEW SET OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ON THE WORLD. THE SOLUTION TO MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS MUST BE SOUGHT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A NUMBER OF THEM WILL REQUIRE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. AS EXAMPLES: EPISODES OF TOXIC CHEMICALS OCCURRING IN THE ENVIRONMENT ARE REPORTED WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY, SOME OF THEM AFFECTING HUMAN HEALTH AND OTHERS EVEN THREATENING THE GLOBAL CLIMATE. THE NEED FOR INCREASING ENERGY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ALSO HAS OCCASIONED A SERIES OF PROBLEMS SUCH AS ACID RAINS WHICH RESULT FROM THE BURNING OF HIGH SULPHUR FUELS AND ARE OCCUR-

RING OVER NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE PARTICULARLY, AND ARE
HAVING A HARMFUL IMPACT ON FORESTS, WATER AND CROPS. THESE
KINDS OF ISSUES REQUIRE CONCERTED ACTION, AND WE INTEND TO
WORK WITH OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES TO SEEK THEIR RESOLUTION
ROBINSON

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